

**Think Ahead—5**  
**Tell Me What to Do, God**

*Some time later God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. Genesis 22:1 NIV*

**Your greatest ability is your availability.**

*Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. Genesis 22:3 NIV*

*Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?” “Yes, my son?” Abraham replied. “The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” <sup>8</sup>Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together. Genesis 22:7-8 NIV*

*But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, “Abraham! Abraham!” “Here I am,” he replied. <sup>12</sup>“Do not lay a hand on the boy,” he said. “Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son.” Genesis 22:11-12 NIV*

**Obedience leads you toward God; disobedience drives you away from God.**

**How does God speak to us?**

**1. Sometimes God directs us clearly.**

*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 NIV*

*“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say?” Luke 6:46 NIV*

**2. Sometimes God guides us quietly.**

*For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. Romans 8:14 NIV*

**3. Sometimes God grows us silently.**

*Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, “On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.” Genesis 22:13-14 NIV*

*“Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. ...” Isaiah 58:9 NIV*

*“Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: [Hineni]. ...” Isaiah 58:9 NIV*

**TALK IT OVER**

Read **Genesis 22:1-3**. What stands out to you about Abraham's availability and faith? How can we cultivate a similar "Here I am" attitude?

Share about a time when your obedience to God brought you closer to Him. What did you learn from that experience?

Is there an area in your life where you have become unavailable to God? What steps can you take to become more available to Him?

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